

Charles F. Souder House
514 Race Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1018

HABS
PA
SI-PHILA,
248.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

CHARLES F. SOUDER HOUSE

HABS
PA
SI-PHILA
248-

Street Address 514 Race Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County,
or Location: Pennsylvania

Present Owner: Demolished June 1959

Brief Statement of An example of a three-and-a-half story brick city
Significance: row house of the 1830's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The site of this house, with an earlier brick messuage, was transferred from Catharine Hanchman, widow, to Charles F. Souder on May 22, 1834. By this deed Souder agreed, first, to pay a yearly ground rent of \$168 (reserving the right to liquidate the obligation within ten years), and second, to "within one year ... erect build and finish upon the ... lot a substantial brick dwelling house of sufficient value to secure the said yearly rent ..." [Deed Book AM 51, p. 218]. This transfer involved only the northern 73 feet of a 20 foot by 130 foot lot, extending from Race Street to Cresson's Alley, acquired by Catharine Hanchman from her husband, John Hanchman, and others, by March 26, 1834 [A complete resume of this is given in Deed Book AWM 22, p. 235 ff.]. Catharine Hanchman retained possession of the southern 57 feet, upon which were three three-story brick messuages "forming a Court" [located at 18 Cresson's Alley. Ibid.]. Souder transferred his lot, 20 feet by 73 feet, with a three-story brick messuage and two-story brick backbuilding erected thereon, to Willard Rice, Gentleman, on February 19, 1835, for \$4,500 [Deed Book AM 60, p. 352], who, in turn, granted it to William Fryer, Merchant, on March 7, 1835, for \$4,200 [Ibid., p. 354]. Later owners include Charles Peneveyre, Merchant, 1839 [Deed Book SHF 29, p. 595], and John Douglas, Tobacconist, 1850 [Deed Book GWC 37, p. 260]. Douglas had acquired the court at 18 Cresson's Alley from the estate of C. Hanchman on November 10, 1846 [Deed Book AWM 22, p. 235]. In 1865, Theodore Leupold, "Taylor," acquired both the house at 514 Race Street and the court at 18 Cresson's Alley from Douglas [Deed Book LRB 102, p. 127]. The property descended to Theresa Leupold, and others, who granted it to Henry A. Schell on October 14, 1903. It remained in the Schell estate until acquired by the General State Authority on November 14, 1958, for \$12,000.

2. Date of erection: 1834-1835
 3. Architect: Unknown
Builder, suppliers, etc.: Unknown
 4. Original plans, construction, etc.: No original drawings known.
 5. Notes on alterations and additions: First floor store front is probably not original.
 6. Important old views: None known
Sources of information: Deed Books, Registry of Deeds, City Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.
- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: None of importance known.
- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

Prepared by James F. O'Gorman, Architect,
National Park Service - August 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Unknown
2. Foundations: Unknown
3. Wall construction: Brick, front (north) elevation laid in Flemish bond.
4. Chimneys: Brick chimney at west party wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Glazed double door in store front and glazed single door to left of store front.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Rectangular window openings on upper stories with two over two light, double hung windows and stone (?) sills.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof parallel to Race Street.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Molded brick cornice on front elevation.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas: One segmental-roofed dormer faced north, segmental-arched six over six (?) light, double hung window flanked by pilasters.

B. Technical Description of Interiors: No information

C. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faced north, situated on the south side of Race Street.
2. Enclosures, Outbuildings, Walks, Driveways, Landscaping:
None

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